

**For U.S. forces
serving abroad**

Stripes™



A news digest from The Stars and Stripes

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Eight pages

Russia, U.S. attain tentative agreement on Iraq inspections

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States and Russia have reached tentative agreement on a Security Council statement outlining conditions for scaling back nuclear inspections in Iraq, diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the agreement calls for the International Atomic Energy Agency to provide the Security Council with a status report on the Iraqi nuclear program in July — two months ahead of schedule.

If the July report concludes that Iraq has answered all outstanding questions regarding its nuclear program, the council could endorse a shift from wide-ranging inspections to ongoing monitoring and surveillance of Iraqi nuclear facilities, the sources said.

Otherwise, the sources added, the council would wait until the next IAEA report in October.

Russia has been pressing for the council to endorse the shift now. The United States wanted the council to wait until

October to decide.

One source said the United States would circulate a draft statement in the Security Council today. If the rest of the 15 members agree, the statement could be formally adopted this week.

Meanwhile, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Tuesday he was "satisfied" that Iraq was complying with U.N. inspectors trying to determine that Iraq has destroyed its chemical and biological weapons and long-range missiles.

Annan met with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz for a half hour in Paris to discuss developments since a Feb. 23 accord under which Iraq agreed to open all sites to weapons inspectors, including President Saddam Hussein's palaces.

The IAEA has been performing nuclear inspections since 1991 to determine whether Iraq has complied with U.N. orders to dismantle its nuclear weapons program.

WWII battle sparks bill for cleanup

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (AP) — The United States and Japan can expect a bill for cleaning up Iron Bottom Sound, the strait in the Solomon Islands that in World War II became the scene of one of history's fiercest naval battles.

More than 70 American and Japanese warships sank in the strait, so named because of the vast quantities of broken ships and ammunition that litter

it.

Now the Solomon Islands plans to ask for compensation and help in battling pollution from oil seeping from warships sunk in the 1942-1943 campaign.

Bishop Leslie Boseto, who is minister for Home Affairs, told parliament that the U.N. Development Program is interested in funding a study of pollution risks.

Foreign Minister Patten

son Oti said no official request for help had so far been sent to the combatant countries, but the Solomons had registered concern at the United Nations about the risk posed by ammunition still scattered throughout the islands and its need for help in dealing with it.

Meanwhile, in Honiara there is dissent about a government proposal to change the name of the international airport.

Indonesia tensions rise

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — One day after riot police shot dead six anti-government protesters, security personnel today fired tear gas canisters when students gathered at a university campus to mourn the victims.

Witnesses said the latest violence broke out after a group of demonstrators threw rocks at police outside the Trisakti University, the site of Tuesday's shootings.

The incident marred an otherwise peaceful rally by thousands of students and opposition activists who demanded sweeping political change.

Some students laid wreaths to commemorate the dead as a small contingent of police looked on from just outside the college grounds along with thousands of onlookers who lined a nearby highway.

High profile opposition leaders, including Megawati Sukarnoputri, the daughter of Indonesia's founding president, Sukarno, joined the mourners.

"We are a people who love peace. But what we want most is our right to freedom," said Megawati.

Officers who approached the crowd were jeered and abused by students who defiantly shouted: "Suharto must step down!" or "Freedom!"

"The police shot the innocent. It is the police who are criminals," said Amien Rais the leader of one Indonesia's largest Islamic organizations.

"We must continue to protest until reform is made," Rais said.

A red-and-white Indonesian flag flew at half-staff, as many in the crowd observed a minute's silence and others prayed.

"I've never been to a political rally like this before. But I am here now because they shot those people," said one female student.

Religious bias charge stalls Navy pick

By Baltimore Sun

WASHINGTON — Allegations of religious discrimination against President Clinton's choice to be the chief of Navy chaplains have stalled the nomination in the Senate Armed Services Committee until the Pentagon can review the matter.

The nominee, Rear Adm. A. Byron Holderby, presided over an officers' promotion board in 1996 that was found to have discriminated against a Lutheran chaplain, Lt. Cmdr. Stan Aufderheide, according to a review by the Navy's anti-discrimination officer. But the Navy's inspector general later found the allegations "unsubstantiated," and Holderby was nominated for the top chaplain's post last month.

Aufderheide claims that Holderby engineered his rejection for commander because the two belong to competing Lutheran factions. Holderby was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the nation's largest Lutheran group, which is relatively liberal. Aufderheide belongs to the second-largest group, the more traditional Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Holderby, 63, who has two Legions of Merit and a career that has taken him from the Vietnam War to aircraft carriers and Marine commands, was unavailable for comment.

House, Senate panels at odds over military pay

By Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two powerful congressional committees are divided over such high-profile military issues as pay raises and troop strength in the fiscal 1999 defense authorization bill.

Those differences emerged as the House National Security Committee and the Senate Armed Services Committee wrapped up work on their draft versions of the \$257.3 billion bill late last week.

For example, the Senate committee approved the Pentagon's request for a 3.1 percent military pay raise next year. But the House committee wants to boost that to 3.6 percent to keep the reputed gap between military and private-sector pay, now pegged at more than 13 percent, from widening.

Likewise, the Senate committee granted the Pentagon's request to cut military end strength by 23,512 next year, bringing the active-duty force down to fewer than 1.4 million troops.

But lawmakers on the House panel said that is too much of a cut, given persistent reports of manpower shortages in all the services. Their bill would allow an end strength cut of about 12,570.

"The committee believes the president's end strength request is inadequate to provide the forces needed to carry out the current national military strategy, support the current operations tempo, and provide a decent quality of life," stated an explanatory report that accompanies the bill.

Furthermore, the House committee

wants to override the Pentagon and move ahead with the recent recommendations of an independent panel to house male and female recruits separately during basic training.

The Senate committee, on the other hand, wants to wait until a final report is submitted by a congressional commission formed late last year to study the issue. That report is not expected until March.

The bills now will be sent to the full House and Senate for debate. Once they are approved, negotiators from each chamber will meet to iron out differences in the draft versions. The compromise bill then goes back to the full House and Senate for a final vote before President Clinton signs it into law.

Several lawmakers on both panels complained this year about their hands being tied by the balanced budget agreement that bars them from simply adding money to the overall defense spending plan.

Even so, lawmakers whittled down a wide range of defense spending accounts to come up with extra funds to deal with what they consider to be the biggest shortfalls in the military budget.

In construction, the House panel added \$450 million and the Senate panel added \$500 million to the Pentagon's request of \$7.8 billion. More than one-third of the extra money would pay for quality-of-life projects such as housing and child care centers, most of them in the United States.

Pentagon to stick with missile despite misses

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon will keep working on its \$15 billion THAAD anti-missile defense system despite five consecutive test failures, its backers say.

"We will continue to test this program until we get it right," Defense Department spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Tuesday, speaking only hours after the latest test failure was confirmed.

The Theater High-Altitude Area Defense failed to intercept a target ballistic missile during a test at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., rising only 1,053 feet in the air, the Pentagon said. The test lasted only 5.8 seconds.

The missile system, built by Lockheed Martin Corp., is being developed to protect troops in the field from attack by Scud and other short- and medium-range missiles.

The THAAD is supposed to be an improvement on the Patriot missile system, which gained fame in the Persian Gulf War.

THAAD's "hit-to-kill" technology is supposed to be more precise, aiming to destroy enemy incoming missiles that could be carrying chemical, biological or even nuclear weapons as the missiles leave the atmosphere and aim for targets on Earth.

Stripes

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Vets eligible for Medicare may be able to retain VA care

By Cox News Service

WASHINGTON — Medicare-eligible veterans would be able to continue receiving care through the VA system under a bill approved Tuesday by a House panel.

The bill, which is expected to be considered Thursday by the full Ways and Means Committee, would establish two three-year demonstration projects to expand VA coverage paid by Medicare. It was approved by a voice vote of the panel's health subcommittee.

The first project would allow about 100,000 veterans who were disabled during their military service or have low incomes to obtain VA health benefits either at a VA facility or through VA-approved networks of providers such as rural health clinics.

Currently, such veterans are denied VA coverage for services that Medicare covers. The VA benefits exceed those paid by Medicare and Medicaid and include prescription drugs, eyeglasses and hearing aids.

The program is specifically targeted to veterans who may live too far away from a VA medical facility to receive regular care there. The bill would allow them to obtain VA benefits paid by Medicare at non-VA facilities.

In a letter to Rep. Pete Stark of California, the ranking Democrat on the panel, White House budget director Franklin D. Raines suggested that covering the poor and disabled veterans under the Medicare program "would create significant costs to the Medicare Trust Funds" because those patients would not pay the deductibles and co-payments ordinarily paid by Medicare beneficiaries.

The second project would allow veterans who are neither poor nor disabled to receive VA care under the same terms they would by enrolling in a Medicare Plus managed care plan.

The two projects are estimated to cost the Medicare program about \$500 million over five years.

Both projects would be tried in three locations around the country.

Ex-cadet at Citadel settles harassment lawsuit for \$33,750

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — A former female cadet at The Citadel who sued over alleged sexual harassment and physical abuse has settled her case for \$33,750.

The state-supported military college was not named as a defendant, but it paid Kim Messer \$15,000 as part of the settlement to stave off a separate lawsuit.

Messer and Jeanie Mentavlos, two of the first four women to enter the corps of cadets in 1996, left after one semester — claiming they were hazed and harassed. Among other things, they said cadets kicked them, punched them and set their clothes on fire.

Messer accused six male cadets of negligence and mistreatment. One settled separately for an undisclosed amount; the insurance companies of the other five contributed to the settlement.

Sandy Senn, an attorney for two of the male cadets, said the settlement was not an admission of wrongdoing.

"It doesn't take a mathematician to recognize that attorneys' fees alone would far exceed the individual contributions," she said Monday.

Mentavlos' federal civil rights suit against the school and the same six cadets is pending.

"The settlement with the Messer family closes a chapter in the history of The Citadel," the school said in a statement.

One cadet was dismissed, two left the school, and nine others were disciplined. None was prosecuted.

Two female cadets who entered The Citadel with Messer and Mentavlos finished their sophomore year this week as 19 women completed their freshman year.

Big Apple tries domestic partners laws

NEW YORK (AP) — In what it touted as an important advance in gay and lesbian rights, New York City plans to ensure that unmarried couples are treated the same as married ones on everything from housing to parking permits to burial rights.

The legislation "moves closer to the ideal of hu-

man rights, and treating everyone fairly," said Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, whose office drafted the proposal.

For years, the city has been recognized for accommodating policies toward gay and lesbian couples.

A series of directives, at least one of which dates to

1989, extended to domestic partners the rights once reserved for spouses and family members, such as visitation in city jails and hospitals, and succession for city-supervised housing.

The legislation proposed Monday would make those policies permanent by writing them into law.

Appeals court gives Microsoft OK to ship Windows 98

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court ruled Tuesday that antitrust restrictions a judge placed on the sale of Microsoft's Windows software do not extend to the upcoming release of Windows 98, the company said.

The decision means that, barring further action by the Justice Department, the company can ship Windows 98 this week and require computer makers to include Microsoft's Internet browser.

However, the Justice Department and a

group of states investigating Microsoft are expected to file a broad antitrust complaint this week that still could interfere with that shipment.

The company called the ruling "very significant news."

In its request to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia for a stay of a judge's preliminary injunction, Microsoft had argued that the decision to include restrictions on the sale of Windows 95 "or any successor thereof"

were "plainly improper."

Microsoft has placed extraordinary emphasis on the importance of the timely release of Windows 98, a \$109 upgrade to the operating system software that runs almost all home computers. It plans to offer the software to computer makers Friday and wants to offer it at stores June 25.

The company and its supporters have argued that any interference with the sale of Windows 98 would hurt the entire computer industry.

Clinton mixes pomp with politics

BERLIN (AP) — Fifty years after the Berlin Airlift signaled the opening of the Cold War, President Clinton is commemorating that heroic effort while setting "new directions" for a Europe peaceful and secure.

Flying into Tegel Airport, built during the 1948-49 Soviet blockade expressly for the airlift, Clinton began an itinerary today that called for a mixture of politics and pomp.

Ambassador to Germany John Kornblum said the president intended to use the trip not only to recall the historic

ties between Berlin and America, but "to set new directions" for Europe almost a decade after the Berlin Wall fell.

The trip comes just weeks after the Senate approved the first wave of NATO expansion and the European Union ratified plans for a single currency.

"We've built a pretty strong framework," Kornblum said. "Now the question is: What comes next?"

After meetings today with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Clinton's itinerary calls for

lunch at the 18th century Sans Souci palace outside Berlin — former home to Prussia's Frederick the Great, who signed the first friendship treaty with the new United States in the early 1780s.

Clinton also was to meet with Gerhard Schröder, the opposition Social Democrat who hopes to unseat Kohl in this fall's parliamentary elections. Schröder has been compared to Clinton for his efforts to move his traditionally leftist party to the center to attract middle-of-the-road voters.

On Thursday, Clinton will

speak at Tempelhof Airport with airlift veterans and christen an Air Force C-17 as the Spirit of the City of Berlin.

He then goes to Eisenach, in the former East Germany, to tour a car factory bought after German unification by Opel, the German operating unit of General Motors Corp.

Kornblum said Clinton wanted to stress the importance of U.S. investment in the region, which is still struggling with high unemployment as a result of the wrenching conversion to capitalism.

In Nebraska, attacks backfire

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — One-time front-runner Rep. Jon Christensen's last-minute attacks in the Republican gubernatorial primary backfired as Lincoln Mayor Mike Johanns easily won the nomination Tuesday.

Christensen, easily the most conservative member of Congress, wept as he gave his concession speech, then looked down at a row of photographers in front of him.

"You guys up front here taking my picture — I beg ... that you don't use one of me crying," he said. "This may be the last time I'm in the paper."

With 64 percent of precincts reporting, Johanns had 56,966 votes, or 41 percent of the vote. State Auditor John Breslow was second with 40,883 votes, or 29 percent, while Christensen trailed with 38,429 votes, or 28 percent. Two other candidates got 1 percent of the vote each.

"Anyone in the world would be honored to be governor of the state of Nebraska," Johanns said in his victory speech.

Christensen faced a barrage of criticism from within his own party after mailing a flier last week to thousands of potential voters accusing Johanns of not doing enough to remove an "obscene and racist" program from Lincoln's public-access cable station.

Johanns vehemently disputed the allegations. The 47-year-old father of two said he had tried to stop the program — which showed a man urinating — but could not because it was protected by federal law.

Christensen, a 35-year-old fundamentalist Christian, stood by the flier, saying it would "be a rallying cry for social conservatives."

India's nuke test 'disturbs' Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — One day after India's nuclear tests stunned the world, President Clinton pledged Tuesday to implement U.S. laws that virtually guarantee sanctions. He urged India's nervous neighbors "not to follow down the path of a dangerous arms race."

On Capitol Hill, law-

makers chastised U.S. intelligence agencies for what one committee chairman called "a colossal failure" in not warning of India's plans. And Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott predicted trouble for U.S. ratification of a comprehensive test ban treaty in light of the explosions.

Declaring himself

"deeply disturbed" at news of the tests, Clinton called on India's government to sign the test ban treaty and stop all testing "now and without conditions."

A White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Clinton set no deadline for a decision on sanctions.

Gunmen offer real lesson in crime

From Associated Press

ONTARIO, Calif. — A pair of gunmen robbed a congressional hopeful and his campaign manager at a gas station shortly after the candidate declared on television that crime is not a problem in his suburban district.

"I feel like I have egg and goo all over me," Hale McGee, an American Independent candidate, said Tuesday. "I was talking to the camera and I said ... there's no crime going on here."

Cook puts teeth in message

SAN FRANCISCO — A hotel soup-and-sauce cook angered by a co-worker's tardiness bit off part of the man's finger, police said Tuesday.

The San Francisco Hilton cook, Jose Grimal, 46, was in the city jail charged with mayhem, said police Sgt. Stephen Venters.

Shooter holds police at bay

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — A man carrying guns through his neighborhood shot and critically wounded a police officer then holed up in a house, authorities said.

Police were still trying to talk the armed man out of the house late Tuesday night, more than six hours after the Traverse City officer was shot.

The officer suffered multiple gunshot wounds and was in critical but stable condition after surgery, Grand Traverse County Undersheriff Joseph Smith said.

Milosevic agrees to meet Albanian

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and the leader of Kosovo's independence-minded ethnic Albanians, Ibrahim Rugova, will meet in Belgrade on Friday for the first time, a top U.S. envoy said.

Richard Holbrooke, who brokered the 1995 peace in Bosnia, today announced the meeting, saying it was the outcome of five days of shuttle diplomacy across Yugoslavia.

The Belgrade meeting will be followed within a week with a series of meetings in Kosovo's capital, Pristina, Holbrooke said.

In Pristina, ethnic Albanian officials said they could not immediately confirm or deny the plan.

Friday's meeting is taking place at the invitation of Milosevic, whom Holbrooke commended for "taking personal responsibility" for trying to solve the Kosovo crisis.

Led by Rugova, Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority has sought independence from Serbia since 1989, when Milosevic — then Serbian president — stripped the province of its broad autonomy, saying he needed to protect its Serbian minority.

Kosovo is treasured by Serbs as the cradle

of their culture and Orthodox religion. But they are now far outnumbered by ethnic Albanians, who make up 90 percent of the province's 2 million people.

Milosevic and Rugova, a bespectacled writer who advocates peaceful tactics, are not known to have met before.

Their meeting now comes as violence in Kosovo threatens to turn into all-out war between heavily armed Serbian police and armed separatists of the Kosovo Liberation Army, a shadowy ethnic Albanian group which emerged in 1996 and is gaining increasing ground.

Internet freedom at center of German trial

By The Guardian

BONN, Germany — In a crucial test case bearing on the policing and freedom of the Internet, the former head of a major online provider went on trial Tuesday charged with disseminating child, animal and violent pornography in cyberspace.

Arguments on cyber-censorship, commercial pressures

and transnational restrictions on the use of the Internet will feature in the trial of Felix Somm, 34, a Swiss national, former head of the German subsidiary of CompuServe, the Internet provider.

Bavarian authorities allege that he "knowingly" facilitated the dissemination of illegal pornographic pictures and could have erected electronic

"firewalls" to prevent the spread of criminal material.

Somm went before the judges in Munich contending that commercial companies selling access to the Internet cannot be held responsible for the contents of material distributed by its subscribers.

When he was charged last year, Somm warned that CompuServe, with more than

300,000 customers in Germany, would quit the country for France. He later resigned and returned to Switzerland.

Cracking down on Internet porn and crusading to regulate what is available via computer screens and telephone lines, Bavarian police raided CompuServe's Munich offices in December 1995.

Italians flock to San Marino in search of male potency

SAN MARINO (AP) — San Marino may be one of the tiniest countries in the world. But it has something very, very big: the potency pill Viagra.

The mountain republic is one of the few places outside the United States where the new drug is available.

Since San Marino has a population of just 25,000, there's a limit to how much Viagra it can use. But San Marino is on a mountaintop inside Italy, about 250 miles (400 kms) northeast of Rome, and Italian men are flocking here.

"We have thousands of prescriptions on back order," says San Marino's health secretary, Sante Canducci.

While Viagra is wending its way through various bureaucracies for approval in other European countries, San Marino accepted U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval of the

drug. Viagra hit the shelves here just days after its stunning American debut last month.

"The FDA," Canducci said, "is a very serious organization."

Pfizer, the company that makes Viagra, expects the drug will be approved in Italy and other Western European countries early next year. In the meantime, outside San Marino, it is on sale only in Andorra, a principality between Spain and France.

Viagra doesn't come cheap here: about \$16 a pill, compared to \$10 in the United States.

San Marino's six pharmacies, all of which are state-run, require a prescription from a urologist or a physician specializing in treating men.

Dr. Andriani Egido said his appointment book is full through the end of June.

Juror rules for lust, lands in hot water

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — A Vancouver woman is on trial for obstruction of justice because she allegedly had an affair with an accused killer while serving on the jury that acquitted him.

The trial, which started Monday, is believed to be the first in Canada in which a juror has been prosecuted for a romance with a defendant. It also is believed to be the first trial in which former jurors will be required to testify about their deliberations.

Prosecutors say they have tapes of wiretapped phone calls in which Gillian Guess, 42, admits she had a sexual relationship with Peter Gill while he was on bail during his 1995 murder trial.

After a six-month trial, Gill and five others were acquitted of first-degree murder in the gangland-style killings of two members of a rival drug gang.

Guess has pleaded innocent.

'Tis a fine day to own a pub

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — It was a fine day's work for Trevor O'Driscoll. The New Yorker threw a few darts, poured himself a drink, made a short speech — and won himself the Irish pub of his dreams.

O'Driscoll, 22, won Guinness Brewing's annual Win a pub in Ireland competition Monday, beating nine other Americans.

"They say I've just won a pub, a liquor store and a house. I think it's just all totally crazy!" O'Driscoll said in a telephone interview from Listowel, a picturesque town in County Kerry, where he's the new owner of Finucane's.

O'Driscoll, who grew up in Philadelphia, was the fifth annual winner of a pub, courtesy of Dublin-based Guinness brewery. The competition is open only to Americans aged 21 and over.

Last year's winner, Minneapolis native Doug Knight, was among the eight judges rating the contestants' ability to fling darts, pour Guinness stout and wax eloquent before a live pub audience.

Since graduating from Brown University last year with a degree in American history, O'Driscoll has been working as a legal assistant in a Manhattan law firm.

O.J. TV movie will air without title character

By Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A TV movie about the O.J. Simpson murder trial will feature all of the major figures in the landmark criminal case except one — Simpson himself.

Lawrence Schiller, who co-wrote *American Tragedy*; *The Uncensored Story of the Simpson Defense* with James Willwerth, said Monday the Simpson character will be "a presence" in the film but will not be depicted by an actor.

Schiller's book is the basis for the screenplay.

Schiller said Norman Mailer has agreed to write the screenplay and Oscar-winning director Barry Levinson will direct.

They play card sharks, don't they

LAS VEGAS — The annual World Series of Poker got a royal flush when red-hot actors Matt Damon and Ed Norton showed up to do a little card sharking.

The actors, who play poker players in the upcoming movie *Rounders*, on Monday entered the no-limit Texas Hold'em contest which has an estimated purse of \$1 million.

The duo tried to fit in, but that didn't

work for long. Hordes of reporters and giggling girls swarmed about the poker room with flashing cameras and questions.

After about two hours of play, Damon was down \$50 and Norton was out. Just more than an hour later, Damon also was out.

Photograph such a drag

LOS ANGELES — A computer-altered photo of actor Dustin Hoffman in a cute yellow dress is no laughing matter — and isn't protected by the Constitution, a federal judge said.

U.S. District Judge Dickran Tevzorian on Monday gave the green-light to Hoffman's lawsuit against Los Angeles Magazine for violating his publicity rights by publishing a retouched photo of Hoffman in drag.

The ad showed the Academy Award-winning actor in the dress next to a caption that read: "Dustin Hoffman isn't a drag in a butter-colored silk gown by Richard Tyler and Ralph Lauren heels."

The actor, who starred in the 1982 movie *Tootsie* about a man who dresses as a woman to get an acting job, sued for \$5 million in April 1997 claiming the photograph was altered with a computer and used without his permission.

**Faces
'n'
places**

In The Stars and Stripes

10 YEARS AGO

May 13, 1988 — American soldiers who served in Vietnam suffer from more depression, anxiety and alcohol abuse than do other GIs, but medical examinations reveal no physical indications of exposure to Agent Orange, a herbicide used widely during the Vietnam War, concluded the Vietnam Experience Study, a federal report.

20 YEARS AGO

May 13, 1978 — Calm returned to the downtown Tehran bazaar and the Iranian government withdrew troops sent in to quell Moslem-led demonstrations against the shah.

30 YEARS AGO

May 13, 1968 — On the eve of preliminary peace talks in Paris, North Vietnam said the first question that must be settled would be an unconditional halt to U.S. bombing of North Vietnam.

40 YEARS AGO

May 13, 1958 — The Secret Service said it had received unverified reports an attempt would be made to assassinate Vice President Richard Nixon when he reached Venezuela while on his Latin American tour.

50 YEARS AGO

May 13, 1948 — Seventy-five thousand employees of the Chrysler Corp. went on strike at 16 plants in the three states. The major walkout was staged by production workers whose average wage was \$1.50 per hour.

Puerto Rican leaders vent ire at 'Seinfeld'

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Responding to outrage by their constituents, political leaders on this island commonwealth on Monday angrily protested the burning of a Puerto Rican flag on the latest episode of *Seinfeld*.

"It was a disrespectful act against our symbol, our Puerto Rican flag," Gov. Pedro Rossello told reporters, adding that the show's depiction of Puerto Ricans was insulting.

The *Seinfeld* episode — in which Kramer accidentally burns the flag and then tries to put the flames out by stomping on it — caused a furor among Hispanic groups in the United States.

In the episode, angry participants in New York's Puerto Rican Day parade chase Kramer.

Aikman has cancerous lesion removed

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Doctors say the prognosis for Troy Aikman is excellent after the Dallas Cowboys quarterback had a cancerous mole removed from his upper back.

The growth on the back of Aikman's left shoulder was a malignant melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer.

"If you don't catch it, it can be deadly," Aikman said. "I'm fortunate that we found it early and got it out."

Cowboys spokesman Rich Dalrymple said Aikman discovered a mark on his back a couple of months ago.

The quarterback was on a family vacation in Hawaii recently when his sisters, both of whom are nurses, told him he should get the growth checked.

A biopsy performed last week by Dr. Jerald Sklar determined the mole was cancerous.

"Fortunately, what the biopsy also showed was that it was detected in its earliest stage," Dalrymple said. "Which means that this particular melanoma, when it is detected early, has a 100 percent rate of being able to be cured."

"It was important that they got it when they did."

The mole was removed on Friday, leaving Aikman with 11 stitches. He worked out at Valley Ranch on Tuesday and expects no other effects from the cancer.

But Aikman said he knows that having had one cancerous growth, he is at greater risk for others.

"I'm more inclined to get it again," Aikman said. "But you just have to check yourself regularly and find it. If you don't check yourself you can get in trouble."

Sklar said more than 1 million people will learn this year that they have skin cancer. More than 41,000 will be melanoma cases, and more than 7,300 will die this year from melanoma.

"This is a case in point of how important it is to catch melanomas early," Sklar said. "A melanoma that goes undetected can spread internally ... and the results can be devastating."

Cowboys trainer Jim Maurer said the team warns players about the dangers of sun exposure. NFL teams give physicals to players every year.

Jazz, Lakers advance to conference finals

Utah enjoys homecourt advantage

SEATTLE (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers are so hot they'd like to be playing the Utah Jazz right now instead of Saturday.

"We definitely can feel it," Nick Van Exel said. "We're kind of upset, because we have so many days off. We don't want to relax and let up."

After beating the Seattle SuperSonics for the fourth straight time, 110-95 Tuesday night, the Lakers are back in the Western Conference finals for the first time in seven years.

Get ready Utah. Led by Shaquille O'Neal, who is a monster himself, the Lakers are on a monster playoff roll after winning 22 of their final 25 regular-season games.

First Portland in four games. Then the Sonics in five.

"They shot the ball well in this series," Seattle's Gary Payton said. "The guy in the middle (O'Neal) made the big difference."

After losing Game 1 of the series by 14, the Lakers beat Seattle by 24, 16, 12 and 15.

In George Karl's 6½ seasons as coach of the Sonics, it was the team's first four-game losing streak.

The Eastern Conference semifinals resume tonight with New York at Indiana and Charlotte at Chicago. Both home teams hold 3-1 series leads.

How hot are the Lakers? In one word: sizzling.

In the last three games against the Sonics, a team that allowed 93 points a game during the regular season, the Lakers averaged 114 points, shot 56 percent from the field and 48 percent from 3-point range.

O'Neal missed 22 regular-season games because of injuries. With 31 points, nine rebounds, eight blocked shots and four assists in the series finale, he injured the Sonics' psyche.

"The key word for him these days is dominating," Lakers coach Del Harris said of his 7-foot-1, 315-pound center. "The Dominator may be the new nickname that's tacked onto him."

Pity the poor Sonics. They had to play nine times against O'Neal this season. As the Lakers' Pacific Division rivals, they're going to see a lot more of him in the future.

"They (the Sonics) have to find someone who can match up with Shaquille O'Neal," retiring Seattle swingman Nate McMillan said. "Dude is not going anywhere."

The Lakers will play the Jazz in Salt Lake City in the first two playoff games. No problem, the Lakers said.

During the regular season, they beat Utah three of four. Utah, which won the West last season, beat San Antonio 4-1, wrapping up the series Tuesday night with an 87-77 victory at home.

Los Angeles had the league's best regular-season road record at 28-13 and the

Lakers are 3-2 on the road in the playoffs.

"We're a great road team," Van Exel said. "We've got a lot of confidence in ourselves."

They should have after the way they handled the Sonics. They missed four shots in the first quarter (15-for-19) in taking two leads of 18, were shooting 74 percent at halftime (23-of-31) and didn't let Seattle get any closer than seven points in the fourth quarter.

The Sonics tried to stop O'Neal with double- and triple-teams. O'Neal, a six-year veteran who is finally beginning to understand how to beat NBA defenses, found his open teammates and they connected for a franchise playoff record 13 3-pointers.

Rick Fox and Eddie Jones each finished with 17 points, and Van Exel added 15 off the bench.

Jazz 87, Spurs 77

Karl Malone had 24 points and 13 rebounds and the Jazz came up with an impressive defensive effort as they advanced to the conference finals for the third straight year and fourth time in five years.

Utah held San Antonio's Triple Towers frontcourt of David Robinson, Tim Duncan and Will Perdue to just 35 points and 31 rebounds Tuesday, their lowest totals of the five-game series.

Jeff Hornacek had 19 points for the Jazz, while Bryon Russell added 15.

Robinson led San Antonio with 21.

Mariners stand firm and go over .500

By Associated Press

Ken Griffey wouldn't come out of the game, and for once, the Seattle Mariners wouldn't be denied.

Down to their last out after being held to one hit for the first 8²/₃ innings by Justin Thompson, the Mariners rallied for three runs Tuesday night for a 4-2 win over the Detroit Tigers.

The win, Seattle's first when trailing after eight innings, moved the Mariners a game over .500 for the initial time this season.

"Let's stay there," Seattle manager Lou Piniella said. "That's a great way for us to start a road trip."

Thompson (2-5) retired the first 18 batters and had a 2-1 lead in the ninth when Rich Amaral singled with two outs and Griffey beat out an infield hit on a bad leg.

Griffey, who injured his leg in a collision with umpire Rich Garcia recently, pulled up at first in pain, but stayed in the game after being checked by a trainer. He then scored the go-ahead run from first behind Amaral when David Segui doubled off the left-field wall.

"I thought we were going to have to pinch-run for him," Piniella said. "Junior wanted no part of that. He's been hurting since he had that home plate collision

with the umpire, but he wouldn't come out."

Elsewhere in the AL, it was Tampa Bay 6, Cleveland 5 in 14 innings; Texas 6, Boston 3; New York 3, Kansas City 2; Toronto 4, Oakland 3 in 10 innings; Chicago 5, Anaheim 2; and Minnesota 7, Baltimore 4.

Segui fell behind 0-2 and took two pitches before Segui drove a fastball from Thompson that just eluded left fielder Luis Gonzalez.

"I only had one decent swing against Thompson," Segui said. "He was nasty. He threw great pitches. He never gives you anything good to hit."

Long balls put St. Louis, Cubs in winner's circles

By Associated Press

Mark McGwire went deep. Mark Grace went deep end. And the Atlanta Braves went deep again.

Grace became the first player to hit a home run into the pool beyond the right-center field fence at Bank One Ballpark, sending fans in swimsuits splashing for the souvenir.

"I didn't even know it was going to be a home run," said Grace, who drew a bases-loaded walk in the ninth inning that lifted the Chicago Cubs over Arizona 7-6 Tuesday night.

McGwire hit the longest home run in the 32-year history of Busch Stadium, a 527-foot drive over the left-field scoreboard.

"It excites the people, but I have to look at it as one at-bat. I can't sit there and say 'OK, great,'" McGwire said after the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Milwaukee Brewers 6-5 in 10 innings.

The Braves tied an NL record by hitting a home run in their 24th straight game.

Andres Galarraga's shot in the eighth inning enabled Atlanta to match the mark of the 1953 Brooklyn Dodgers. The Braves can tie the major league record of 25, shared by the 1941 New York Yankees and 1994 Detroit Tigers, tonight at St. Louis.

"I was so happy and excited," Galarraga said. "I don't go up there trying to hit home runs. But in that

situation, I really wanted to hit a home run."

In other games, Philadelphia defeated Los Angeles 5-3, Houston beat Florida 4-2 and Pittsburgh downed Colorado 6-0.

A pair of games were rained out — New York at San Diego and Montreal at San Francisco.

Grace hit a drive about 390 feet into the pool for a solo home run in the sixth inning. Rather than keep the wet ball, though, a fan threw it back onto the field.

Grace hit his first home run of the season a day earlier against the Diamondbacks.

In the ninth, Felix Rodriguez (0-2) retired the first two Cubs batters before walking four in a row. Arizona tied a team record with its seventh straight loss.

"Two outs and four walks? That'll make you insane," Rodriguez said. "I'm going to have to let the game pass. The game is over."

**Cardinals 6, Brewers 5,
10 innings**

Delino DeShields singled home the winning run in the bottom of the 10th.

Jeff Cirillo hit a two-run homer in the ninth, tying it for the Brewers at 5.

McGwire's three-run homer, his 14th, broke his own stadium record, set with a 517-foot drive Sept. 16.

2 games, 4 OTs in ice playoffs

By Associated Press

The Detroit Red Wings brushed away potential disaster.

Goaltender Chris Osgood was victimized by an improbable goal, a blast from center ice by Al MacInnis in the final minute of regulation, then was perfect the rest of the way as the Red Wings won 3-2 in double overtime Tuesday night.

Brendan Shanahan, once a star in St. Louis, scored at 11:12 of the second overtime to give Detroit a 2-1 series lead heading into Game 4 Thursday night in St. Louis. But the Red Wings couldn't have done it without a strong rebound from Osgood.

"I said to myself 'It's 2-2, and we're just going to have to win it the hard way,'" Osgood said. "I couldn't let something like that bother me."

In Tuesday night's other playoff game, Buffalo beat Montreal 5-4 in double overtime to take a 3-0 lead in their Eastern Conference series.

Sabres 5, Canadiens 4, 2 OT

At Montreal, Michael Peca's goal 1:24 into the second overtime put the Sabres within one game of a series sweep.

Dixon Ward grabbed control of the puck in the left circle and found Peca alone between the two circles. Peca took a hard slap shot that beat Jose Theodore to the glove side to give the Sabres a 3-0 series advantage.

Only two teams, the 1942 Toronto Maple Leafs and the 1975 New York Islanders, have come back from a three-game deficit to win a best-of-7 series.